

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because of informalities noted by the Examiner, and appropriate correction was required. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Harlin et al. (USPN 3,684,412), and claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlin et al. Claim 3-5 were allowed.

The title of the invention was objected to as being insufficiently descriptive, and a new title was required. The drawings were objected to as failing to show reference numeral 26 which is described in the specification on page 21, lines 10 and 13, and appropriate correction of the drawings was required.

Acknowledgement was made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and the Examiner acknowledged receipt of the priority documents submitted in the parent application thereby perfecting the foreign claim.

In accordance with this response, rejected claims 1-2 have been canceled thereby leaving only allowed claims 3-5 pending in the application. Independent claim 3 has been amended in minor formal respects to improve the wording and to overcome the informalities noted by the Examiner with respect to independent claim 1. No substantive change has been made to claim 3 which would affect its patentability.

The specification has been revised in editorial respects and to update the status of the parent application, which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,851,940. Rather than amend the drawings to show reference numeral 26, the specification has been amended on page 21 to refer to the retaining portions as 25, 25, which is consistent with the drawings. Accordingly, no amendment of the drawings is needed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, all objections and rejections have been overcome and only allowed claims 3-5 remain pending in the application. Thus the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage
of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

50 Broadway
31st Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

DEBRA BUONINCONTI

Name



Signature

JULY 15, 2005

Date